Lessons Learned Information Sharing
www.LLIS.gov

May 2007 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* **Newsletter**

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DHS Geospatial Data Model

DHS Geospatial Data Model Open for Comment

LLIS.gov currently is hosting **Version 1.2 of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Geospatial Data Model (GDM)**. The DHS Geospatial Management Office developed the geospatial model to support geospatial interoperability and information sharing. Geospatial operations at the DHS will be based on this model, as will data exchanges with allies in the homeland security and disaster management community at the federal, state, and local levels.

LLIS.gov invites all federal, state, and local geographic information systems (GIS) professionals to participate in the geospatial model's development by reviewing and providing comments on the model. All comments will be adjudicated through the Federal Geographic Data Committee Homeland Security Working Group, Content Subgroup, and results will be re-posted to the *LLIS.gov* GIS Resource Center. The *deadline for submitting comments is August 17, 2007*.

To access the DHS GDM Version 1.2 and DHS Geospatial Data Model Comment Resolution Matrix, log on to *LLIS.gov* and click on **Geographic Information Systems** under FEATURED TOPICS. We welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you may have at GIScomment@llis.dhs.gov.

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Emergency Transportation Operations

New Channel on Emergency Transportation Operations

LLIS.gov has partnered with the Federal Highway Administration and launched the Emergency Transportation Operations Channel to promote information sharing among the transportation, emergency management, and public safety personnel that are involved in emergency transportation operations. The channel contains documents on topics such as traffic incident management, planned special events, evacuation transportation management, connecting emergency operation centers and traffic management centers, traveler information management, and transportation security. Log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on **EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS CHANNEL** under FEATURED TOPICS.

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Hurricane Preparedness

Enhancements to the *LLIS.gov* Hurricane Preparedness Resource Page

LLIS.gov has updated the **Hurricane Preparedness** page to be a one-stop resource for information related to hurricane response, recovery, and mitigation planning. The *LLIS.gov* Hurricane Preparedness page includes over 800 documents, addressing such topics as evacuation and sheltering, logistics, private sector preparedness, public information, volunteer and donations management, and much more. The page also includes hurricane plans, planning templates, and public information guides. Additionally, *LLIS.gov* has created a resource page containing documents related to more than 25 specific tropical storms and hurricanes that have occurred over the last 40 years.

To access this page, log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on **Hurricane Preparedness** under FEATURED TOPICS. We welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you may have at hurricane@llis.dhs.gov.

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Incident Management

New Additions to the *LLIS.gov* Incident Management Resource Page

LLIS.gov has redesigned the **Incident Management** page to highlight resources for relevant, timely, and hard-to-find information related to incident management. The *LLIS.gov* Incident Management page hosts over 1,000 documents on communication and information management, incident command, incident site management, NIMS implementation, resource management, multi-agency coordination, and much more. Members are also invited to view Lessons Learned from real world events and exercises, submit their own documents, and collaborate with other *LLIS.gov* members in the Incident Management Forum.

To access this page, log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on **Incident Management** under FEATURED TOPICS. We welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you may have at incidentmanagement@llis.dhs.gov.

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Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning

New Best Practices on Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Incident Response Planning

LLIS.gov has added four new Best Practice documents on RDD Incident Response Planning. The Best Practices cover decontamination, incident site medical management, public information, and long-term management. These new documents join the previously published RDD Incident Response Planning Best Practices on incident identification, training and exercises, and roles and responsibilities of emergency response organizations.

Log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on **Radiological Dispersal Devices** under FEATURED TOPICS to access the new Best Practices. We welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you may have at RDD@llis.dhs.gov.

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New Original Content Posted Since Last Newsletter

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned, Best Practices, Practice Notes, and Good Stories to the system on a regular basis. Weekly updates about new original content can be found in the "NEW *LLIS* CONTENT" box on the homepage of *LLIS.gov*. Since the last newsletter, *LLIS.gov* has posted the following original content:

Best Practices

- **Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning: Decontamination**
  Mass screening and decontamination after a radiological dispersal device (RDD) event is likely to be a time-consuming, resource-intensive process that could overwhelm many jurisdictions. Planners should establish standard operating procedures that include large-scale monitoring and decontamination provisions after an RDD event.

- **Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning: Incident Site Medical Management**
  Jurisdictions should plan for the onsite medical management of injured and/or contaminated victims following a radiological dispersal device (RDD) incident. This Best Practice discusses medical management, monitoring issues, and procedures that planners should consider as they develop their RDD plans and standard operating procedures. This document reviews core concepts of onsite medical management of victims, medical consequences of an RDD event, medical management of victims with life-threatening injuries, and monitoring and record keeping issues.
- **Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning: Long-Term Management**
  Emergency response organizations need to plan for long-term management activities following a radiological dispersal device (RDD) incident. An RDD could contaminate several city blocks as a result of atmospheric dispersion of the radioactive material. Experts expect the radioactive material to disperse in a non-uniform manner due to the complexity of urban architecture. Wind patterns could carry the contamination in unpredictable directions, leaving uneven deposition areas with numerous hot spots. As a result, decontamination after an RDD incident is likely to be a long and costly process. Decontamination activities could be technically challenging, require a considerable amount of resources, and involve multiple agencies. Plans should include provisions for site decontamination and long-term monitoring of the public, the environment, and the water and food supplies after an RDD incident.
- **Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning: Public Information**
  Assessing and communicating risks is likely to be especially difficult during incidents involving radiological dispersal devices (RDD). Many people do not understand radioactivity and its short- and long–term effects. Further, they may confuse an RDD incident with a nuclear detonation or an accident like the one that occurred at Chernobyl. Thus, they are likely to mistake even a small release of radioactive materials for a catastrophic event. This lack of critical knowledge of RDDs is likely to intensify the public's fear of radiation. Moreover, the media may deliver conflicting messages to the public after an RDD incident. This uncertainty also can greatly exacerbate the public's fears and concerns. It could also lead the public to doubt or even disregard official statements in favor of unfounded rumors after an RDD event.

Lessons Learned

- **Communications Protocols: Notifying Dispatchers before Dropping a Radio Patch** (*Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Project Liberty Full-Scale Exercise, 2006*)
  Before dropping a patch, radio technicians should notify dispatchers and allow enough time for dispatchers to follow proper deactivation procedures to maintain communication with responders.
- **Emergency Communications: Mitigating Ambient Noise in Small Facilities** (*Louisiana Region 1 Urban Area Security Initiative Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Full-Scale Exercise, 2006*)
  Ambient noise in small, crowded operations centers can make it difficult for radio operators to hear incoming transmissions. Small emergency operations centers should consider purchasing headsets and microphones for radio operators to mitigate the effect of ambient noise on external communications.
- **Emergency Communications: Performing Radio Checks Only on Unused Communications Links** (*Louisiana Region 1 Urban Area Security Initiative Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Full-Scale Exercise, 2006*)
  Technicians should perform radio checks only on unused communications links. Radio checks that are performed on active communications links can disrupt conversations among emergency responders currently using that link.
- **Emergency Operations Centers: Coordinating the Release of Information from Emergency Operations Centers** (*Iowa District 3 Multi-County Functional Exercise, 2005*)
  During multi-jurisdictional incident responses, public information officers (PIO) at local emergency operations centers (EOC) should coordinate with each other and with the state emergency operations center (SEOC) to ensure they do not release conflicting information.
- **Exercise Evaluation: Preparing Evaluators for Multi-Language Exercises** (*American Samoa Government Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan EX2006 Full-Scale Exercise, 2006*)
  Jurisdictions should prepare outside evaluators for the challenges of evaluating an exercise in which languages other than English are spoken. Jurisdictions should be prepared to provide additional translators as necessary.

- **Incident Command: Incorporating the Distribution of an Incident Radio Communications Plan into Standard Operating Procedures** (*New York City Urban Area Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Validation Exercise, 2006*)
  Agencies and jurisdictions should incorporate the distribution of the Incident Radio Communications Plan into standard operating procedures for multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional incident responses. Incident commanders can redact sensitive information from versions intended for wider distribution.
- **Mass Decontamination: Assigning Personnel to Monitor Access to Control Zones** (*State of Oregon Hood River County Functional Exercise, 2005*)
  The safety officer should assign access control personnel to monitor the perimeters of control zones after a radiological release incident. This measure is essential to prevent cross-contamination and ensure safe movement of responders and victims between hazardous areas.
- **Mass Decontamination: Clearly Demarcating Boundaries of the Control Zones** (*State of Oregon Hood River County Functional Exercise, 2005*)
  The safety officer should ensure that personnel operating at a decontamination site after a radiological release incident clearly demarcate the perimeters of control zones. Emergency response organizations should plan to store such marking materials as color-coordinated cones or caution tape with the decontamination tent.
- **Shelter Operations: Cataloguing and Securing Medications for Residents with Mental Illnesses** (*Washington State Windstorms, 2006*)
  Shelter operators should consider cataloguing medications that individuals with mental illnesses bring into a general population shelter, and securing those medications when the individual does not need them. Ensuring that medications are used only by the patients for whom they are prescribed will prevent other shelter residents from stealing the medications to take themselves or to sell to others.

Practice Notes

- **Border Security: Deploying Additional Personnel to Patrol State and Local Roads**
  The Bisbee, Arizona, Police Department deploys personnel to patrol state and county roads and to apprehend undocumented aliens and smugglers. These patrols provide a higher concentration of law enforcement personnel along the border and block the egress routes of undocumented aliens and smugglers.
- **Emergency Animal Sheltering: The Marion County, Florida, Pet-friendly Shelter's Radio Communications between Registration Desks**
  During large-scale emergencies, Marion County, Florida's Animal Center operates a pet shelter that is collocated with a shelter for humans. Throughout the pet-friendly shelter's operations, Animal Center staff maintains two-way radio communications with the main registration desk at the human section of the shelter. This communication allows the pet shelter staff to better prepare for new arrivals and to contact owners regarding issues with their animals.
- **Emergency Communications: North Dakota Department of Health's Public Information Fact Sheets in Multiple Languages**
  The North Dakota Department of Health started translating its public information fact sheets into Arabic, Bosnian, Kurdish, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese in 2004.
- **Mass Decontamination: Anchorage, Alaska Fire Department's Initial Emergency Response Actions**
  The Anchorage Fire Department's (AFD) "Operations Plan: Cold Weather Decontamination and Triage" includes a list of initial actions for AFD emergency personnel who are first onsite at a suspected chemical, biological, or radiological incident in northern and arctic environments. These procedures can help AFD emergency personnel start protecting themselves from the onset of emergency response.
- **Radiological Incident Response: Washington State Department of Health's Recommendations for Providing Radiation Training to Non-Emergency Personnel**
  The Washington State Department of Health recommends that jurisdictions provide radiation training after a radiological dispersal device incident to non-emergency personnel who need to access contaminated areas. Based upon the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines, trained personnel can be exposed to higher levels of radiation than untrained personnel and thus can operate in contaminated areas for longer periods of time during response and recovery operations.

Good Stories

- **The State University of New York-University at Albany's Graduate Certificate Program in Public Security**
  The State University of New York–University at Albany established a graduate certificate program in public security. The program provides students both with background knowledge of public security and counterterrorism issues and with practical analytical skills necessary for a career in public security and intelligence.
- **Woodside, California, Fire Protection District's "When Words Are Not Enough" Communications Training Program for Responders**
  The Woodside Fire Protection District in Woodside, California developed an educational tool to teach responders simple and effective methods to communicate with individuals who have disabilities and special needs in an emergency. The free program includes a one-hour training session, video, written manual, communication booklet, and poster.

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Upcoming *LLIS.gov* Conference Participation

The *LLIS.gov* team travels around the country speaking and exhibiting at conferences and events. *LLIS.gov* staff will attend and speak at the following upcoming events:

- **03-06 June: 2007 School-Based Law Enforcement Conference (Corpus Christi, TX)**
- **12 June: Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change Summer Conference (Nashua, NH)**
- **14-15 June: Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data Working Group Meeting (San Diego, CA)**

Feel free to drop by our booth or speak to our staff at any of these events and share your comments and questions about *LLIS.gov*. Please contact the *LLIS.gov* Outreach Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov with any questions or comments, or if you have a conference or event at which you would like the *LLIS.gov* team to present or exhibit.

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LLIS.gov is a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, and is supported by DeticaDFI and the Henry L. Stimson Center.

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